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Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 PC-04 CU-04 SCS-03

SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01

VO-03 PPT-02 SY-10 SCCT-02 NEA-10 NIC-01 DRC-01 /194 W
---------- 121500
R 151402Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9441
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SCUL, SF
SUBJECT: WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OFFICIAL DEPORTED

1. LATEST FARCE STEMMING FROM SAG'S DESIRE PREVENT "UNDESIRABLES" FROM ENTERING, OR REMOVE THOSE WHO ARE INSIDE, SOUTH AFRICA TOOK PLACE MARCH 14. DR. LUKAS VISCHER, HEAD OF WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES' FAITH AND ORDER COMMISSION, WAS ORDERED TO LEAVE SOUTH AFRICA IMMEDIATELY. VISCHER, A SWISS CITIZEN, WHO THEREFORE REQUIRED NO VISA TO ENTER SA, HAD BEEN IN THIS COUNTRY ON WCC BUSINESS SINCE MARCH 1.

2. APPARENTLY MININTERIOR MULDER ISSUED DEPORTATION ORDER WITHOUT KNOWING VISCHER WAS ALREADY ENROUTE TO AIRPORT FOR HIS DEPARTURE TO ACCRA. VISCHER HIMSELF LEFT SA WITHOUT REALIZING HE HAD BEEN EXPELLED.
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3. IN OFFICIAL STATEMENT, MULDER SAID VISCHER'S TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMIT HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN BECAUSE OF "INFLAMMATORY POINTS OF VIEW" WHICH HE EXPRESSED AT PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 13. MULDER REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO WHAT HE SAID WERE VISCHER'S VIEWS REGARDING TERRORISM AND COMMUNISM. HE SAID VISCHER WOULD NEVER AGAIN BE ALLOWED INTO SA.

4. IT APPEARS THAT VISCHER'S EXPULSION IS DIRECT RESULT OF INTERPRETATION OF VISCHER'S REMARKS BY SOUTH AFRICAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION (SABC). IN BROADCASTS MARCH 13 AND 14 SUMMARIZING HIS REMARKS, SABC LEFT CLEAR IMPRESSION VISCHER HAD SUPPORTED USE OF VIOLENCE, CHARACTERIZED WHITE RACE AS OBSTACLE TO SOCIAL JUSTICE IN WORLD, AND HAD EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF COMMUNISM. MULDER SEEMINGLY ACTED ON BASIS OF CONTENT OF SABC BROADCAST.

5. DISTURBED BY WHAT HE SAID WAS DISTORTION OF "BOTH THE INTENTION AND THE WORDING" OF HIS REMARKS AT PRESS CONFERENCE, VISCHER ISSUED STATMENT SHORTLY BEFORE HE LEFT SA. IN IT HE CONTRASTED HIS ACTUAL WORDS WITH SABC'S SUMMARY AND VIGOROUSLY ASSERTED THAT IT WAS INCORRECT AND UNFAIR (DETAILS BY POUCH).

6. LENDING CREDENCE TO DR. VISCHER'S ACCUSATION THAT SABC HAD DISTORTED WHAT HE SAID, WAS FACT THAT NONE OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE OR AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPERS IN PRETORIA/JOHANNESBURG AREA HAD GIVEN SAME, OR EVEN SIMILAR, INTERPRETATION TO HIS REMARKS. IT ALSO SIGNIFICANT THAT THIS MORNING SABC BROADCAST TEXT OF VISCHER'S STATEMENT REGARDING ITS SUMMARY. THIS, FROM SABC, WAS VIRTUAL APOLOGY.

7. IN EDITORIAL TODAY, RAND DAILY MAIL SUGGESTS MULDER MAY HAVE ACTED IMPETUOUSLY AFTER HEARING SABC REPORT. BUT WHETHER MULDER ACTUALLY ERRED OR WHETHER HE POSSESSED MORE INFORMATION THAN SABC BROADCAST, BECAUSE WCC IN SUCH BAD ODOR IN SOUTH AFRICA NEITHER MULDER NOR NATIONAL PARTY WILL SUFFER POLITICAL DAMAGE FROM VISCHER'S EXPULSION. NATURALLY, THOUGH, SOUTH AFRICA'S IMAGE ABROAD WILL BE FURTHER TARNISHED BY SAG'S UNNECESSARY AND PROVOCATIVE ACT.
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